

# U3A Leeds      Newsletter      August 2014

Dear U3A member,

It's been a glorious summer and your Committee has been busy - no, not sunbathing but making plans to build on all the things U3A Leeds already has to offer you.

I'm pleased to report that we now have a dedicated U3A lap-top which will be used by Elaine Hazell, our new membership secretary. In addition to Elaine the committee also welcomed Eileen Fergusson to do the job of Activities/Speaker Coordinator. I know both Elaine and Eileen will be a great asset to Leeds U3A.

We have now invested in a digital projector, something speakers often ask for nowadays, which will add a new dimension to the Tuesday talks . Incidentally, next year, will be our 'Pearl Anniversary' marking 30 years of U3A in Leeds so I believe the time is right to update our technology ready for the next generation of third-agers.

Autumn term sees the start of changes to general meetings at Moor Allerton Sports & Social Centre too. We will be trying out something new so, on one Tuesday each month, there will be a formal talk and the other Tuesday will be given over to a more informal meeting with the emphasis on activities and groups. This may mean a quiz, a group display, performance or demonstration as well as more time to catch up with old friends, make new friends & chat over a cuppa. When you receive your copy of the new programme you'll see that we've tried to mix things up a bit so I do hope you'll come along to see for yourself .

The interest groups are the lifeblood of U3A so we're expanding your choices there too. A guitar group, an 'Upwords' group, a creative writing group and a short course titled 'Armchair Traveller' will be starting this term. We're also hoping to start a classical Latin group in the not too distant future. Look for details on the website and on the groups display tables at general meetings. Don't forget, if you want to learn a new skill , study a particular subject or if you simply feel you'd like to help organise a group, talk to Lesley Broster, group co-ordinator, who will be happy to explain how easy it is. She can find you a venue, put you in touch with others with the same interests and help you get started. Talk to any group leader and they'll tell you that the more you put in the more you get out of your U3A membership.

I've also had requests from some members who want to form a hands-on art group but don't know how to get going. They're all keen & of varying talents so if you are able to help let Lesley know. Likewise, we're looking for someone who can do the same for a mah-jong group, a digital photography group, a group of swimmers and

some members who want to knit & natter. If you feel you can help either get in touch with Lesley or a member of the committee:-

Janet Keogh - Chair

Sally Firth - Treasurer

Margaret Jones - Secretary & Vice  
Chair

Elaine Hazell - Membership Secretary

Lesley Broster - Group Coordinator

Eileen Fergusson - Activities & Speaker  
Coordinator

Jackie Bennett - Publicity &  
Literature

Jenny Atkinson - Newsletter &  
Communications

All good wishes and I hope you enjoy the Autumn programme,

Janet Keogh

#### CHAIRPERSON

#### Possible New Groups

Some members have expressed an interest in a **Latin Group**. We do not currently have any leader but if someone is able and willing to act as a leader please contact Lesley Broster, the groups co-ordinator ([lesleybroster@gmail.com](mailto:lesleybroster@gmail.com) or telephone 0113 2945652.)

However, in the event that we cannot find a leader an Open University on line introductory course in Classical Latin has been identified which could be used by a small group of members working together. Please let Lesley know if this would be of interest and we will attempt to organize.

We have also had a suggestion of a **Discussion Group**. Would this be of interest to you? If so please contact Lesley Broster expressing your interests and we will attempt to organize the group. We would look for a venue in central Leeds for this group, to enable greater access by public transport from all parts of the city.

If you have any other ideas for possible groups please let us know and we will explore the possibility of setting up a group and will help you to find a suitable venue.

We are currently exploring the possibility of running short courses, maybe for 10 weeks, as we are aware that some groups have reached capacity and have waiting lists. Would something like this interest you? Please let us know so that your committee can look into it, organize venues and administration, give you more choice and make this a great U3A!

Would you like to discover the world without the cost of an aeroplane or train ticket? If so would you like to join our new group?

### **Armchair Travellers.**

At each meeting one of the group (or if you prefer a couple/ small group) will talk on a city of the world (or maybe a small island / country if that is more appropriate, e.g. if you selected Menorca you may want to talk about the island as a whole rather than just one of the cities). The content will be up to the individual but we would suggest possibly some details on the history of the location, attractions, places to visit, culture, people, strange things that you have discovered about the place, maybe some info on places to stay and to eat, whatever attracts you to the place. You may be interested in a location but not actually have visited it. That is fine, just share with us what fascinates you about the place. We hope to be able to provide a digital projector for use if required.

The idea behind this group is that if you join you partake fully in line with the guiding principles of the U3A network... "To encourage and enable older people ...to **help each other to share** their knowledge, skills, interests and experience."

We hope to meet once a month in the first week of each month starting in October 2014 at a location in central Leeds to make travelling easier for those members who live to the South, East and West of the city. The location will probably be the Age Concern Building behind Sainsbury's on the Headrow, or the Central Library, or the Town Hall, depending on availability.

If you are interested in joining this group please contact Sally Firth by e mail [salandtk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:salandtk@yahoo.co.uk) or telephone 0113 2040690 . When responding please advise your preferred day/time in order that we can sort the time to suit the majority.

### Writing for Pleasure Group

Do you like writing? Stories , poems , autobiographical ..... Would you like to explore different forms of writing and share ideas? Perhaps put a collection of writing together and publish it? We are in the process of setting up a new group. If you are interested in joining please contact Jenny Atkinson on 0113 2931997 or email [jenny@atkinson60.freemove.co.uk](mailto:jenny@atkinson60.freemove.co.uk)

## Guitar Group

We are in process of setting up a 'guitar group' to be led by Bob Simpson.

The main objective of the group will be to help each other learn various techniques and styles, learn some new songs and hopefully pick up some wider musical knowledge on the way. The emphasis will be on acoustic guitar playing - folk, country, blues or whatever you like. It is intended that the level of the group will be 'intermediate' i.e. not for absolute beginners.

We have a venue in mind and will fix timings to suit those who express an interest. Initially, the intention is to meet once a month for about two hours.

Contact: Bob Simpson (email:[bobsimpson1943@ntlworld.com](mailto:bobsimpson1943@ntlworld.com))

and let us know when you can be available.

## UPWORDS GROUP

Upwords is a word game similar to Scrabble in that it uses a board and tiles to build up a word grid. The major difference, however, is that you can stack the tiles up to create or change words, thus making it into a 3D grid. The more that are stacked up, the more interesting it can become and it's amazing how the grid can change over the course of a few rounds. You don't have to be a word genius to play and it can certainly be very enjoyable and rewarding, and it keeps you thinking !

If you are interested in playing Upwords, please contact Alison Brewster.

Telephone 0113 2566203 / 07980569361 or email [alisonbrewster@talktalk.net](mailto:alisonbrewster@talktalk.net)

## VOLUNTEER WANTED

MAECare are looking for a volunteer to help run a weekly Writing Group for a group of people aged 75 to 92 years. They employ a tutor, who is a writer, twice a month, but need a volunteer to support the group practically in the intervening weeks. The group meets on a Thursday afternoon 2.00-4.00pm. If you are interested please contact Carol Burns at [carol@maecare.org.uk](mailto:carol@maecare.org.uk)

## SHORT COURSE

### Beginners' Drawing Course

In this course you will learn about the basic aspects of drawing including, proportion, shading and composition. You will work from a range of different subjects, both natural and manmade. You will learn how to draw from both two dimensional images and three dimensional objects. The course aims to provide you with a broad and varied experience and ultimately at the end of the course you will have acquired skills which you can continue to develop. This course is designed for beginners and is perfect for anyone who has always wanted to have a go at drawing but didn't know where to start.

Course duration: 8 weeks

Course price: £56 (this includes all materials)

Course starts: 22nd September 2014

Time: Mondays 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Location: Headingley Parish Hall, St Michaels Rd, Leeds, LS6 3AW

Tea and biscuits will be provided.

The course will be taught by Leeds based artist Wendy Atton B A (Hons).

Please contact Lesley Broster by 15<sup>th</sup> September if you would like to join the group.

**[lesleybroster@gmail.com](mailto:lesleybroster@gmail.com) or telephone 0113 2945652**

# Did you or somebody you know work at Armley Mills?



Leeds-based artist David Bridges is developing a piece of work in partnership with Leeds Industrial Museum which is scheduled for exhibition in August 2015.

The work centres on the memories of people who worked at Armley Mills when it was a working mill.

Can you give us any information, however insignificant it may seem, to help us find people who can inspire this exhibition?

Contact Hannah Kemp **now** at Leeds Industrial Museum  
Tel: 0113 378 3182 Email: [hannah.kemp@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:hannah.kemp@leeds.gov.uk)



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## YAHR Study Day August 5<sup>th</sup>

YAHR organised a programme of half day and day courses at The Northern College on August 5<sup>th</sup>. Over 60 members from around the region attended. It was a very successful day held in very pleasant surroundings. I attended the day course on Chinese Brush Painting which was very informative, practical and fun! It was a great experience. Other Leeds members attended An Introduction to iPads and Memory Training, both of which were equally good. The day courses organised by YAHR are well worth attending and give an opportunity to meet other U3A members as well as try out new activities.

Jenny Atkinson



Chinese Brush Painting

## Questionnaire

Please would you spare a few minutes to complete the following questions to help us develop and improve the activities U3A Leeds can offer.

1. To which group(s) do you belong?
2. What new groups would you like to see on offer in U3A Leeds?
3. Do you have any skills or expertise you can offer to form a new group?
4. Have you any recommendations of speakers or suggestions for topics for the Tuesday meetings?
5. Do you have any ideas for alternative activities for Tuesday meetings?
6. Can you offer a short course that we can organise?
7. Are you willing to be a group leader/ joint leader for a group if we can organise someone to provide the expertise?
8. Have you any other suggestions to promote the development of new groups?

Name .....

Please email to [jenny@atkinson60.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:jenny@atkinson60.freeserve.co.uk) or hand in at a Tuesday meeting or to a committee member.

Thank you for your time.